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DIRECTORATE OF
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Cambodia: The government is moving to tighten its control over the bureaucracy and the people.

The US Embassy in Phnom Penh reports the Lon Nol regime has formed a "Committee for National Discipline," whose ostensible purpose is to establish more efficient civil and military administration throughout the country. The committee appears to have some ombudsman functions, and is empowered to make proposals for corrective actions if government administration is faulty. To help communications between Phnom Penh and the provinces, the government is establishing a national information center and other centers in the districts; the people are invited to lodge their complaints with these centers.

The committee also has some unspecified responsibility for overseeing the behavior of the population, but it is not clear whether this involves more than providing Phnom Penh with information about the situation in the countryside.

A tougher line on political dissidence was evident in a nationwide address yesterday by Prime Minister Lon Nol. He urged the populace to stand behind the government and the army, and instructed them to report any instances of collaboration with or aid to the Communists. He warned that any Cambodian caught engaging in activity benefiting the enemy, including opposition to plans to abolish the monarchy, would be subject to "martial law" as of 1 June.

Military Developments

The government is continuing its effort to recapture the Mekong River town of Tonle Bet in Kompong Cham Province. Western journalists report that four Khmer Krom battalions are enveloping the town, which is held by one Communist battalion. Although Communist troop movements were detected in several other regions, no other significant fighting was reported.

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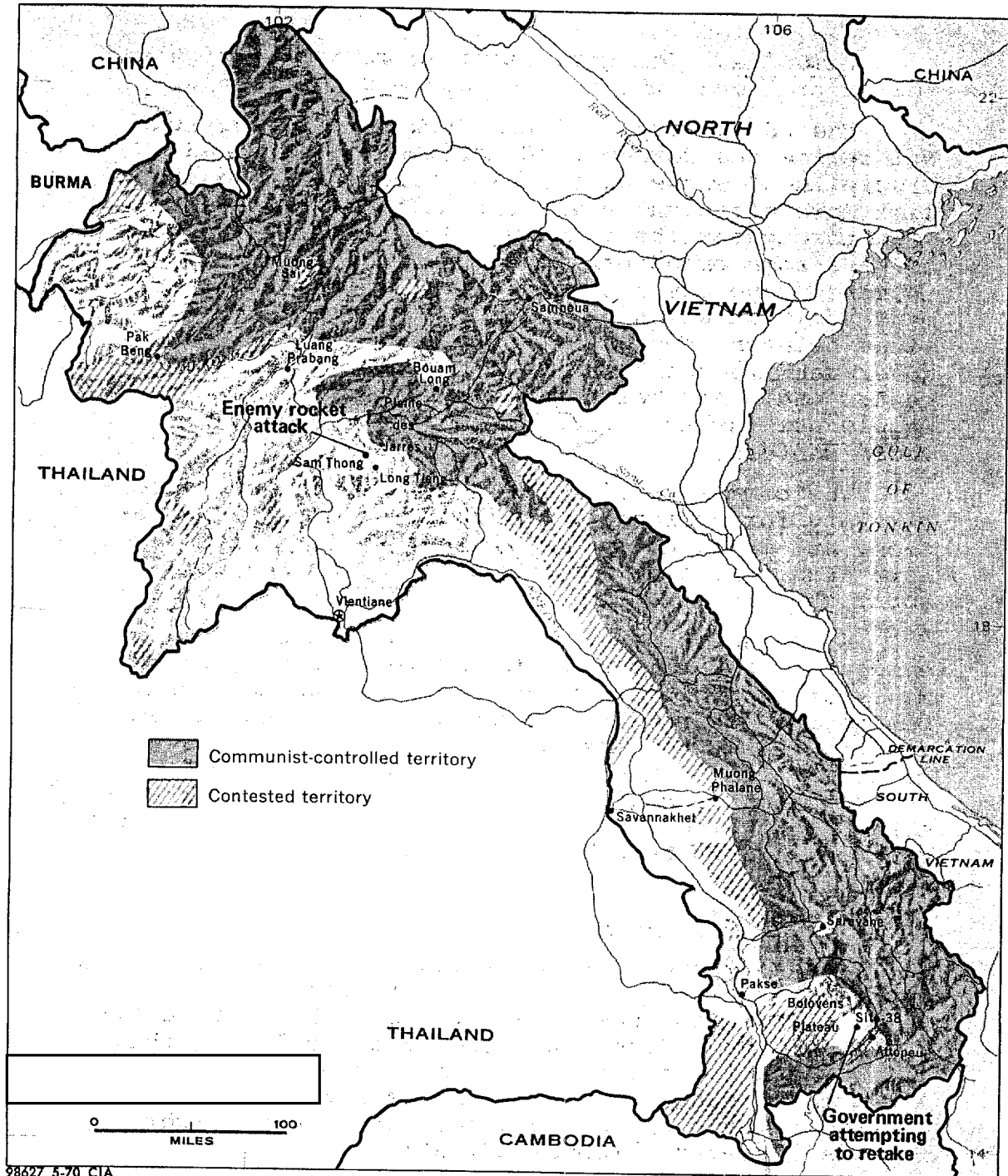
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Laos: Current Situation



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Laos: Heavy rains have slowed military activity in recent days, but some action was reported in the Long Tieng sector and in the south yesterday.

The first clear weather in six days permitted government forces in the Long Tieng - Sam Thong region to resume operations designed to extend the defensive perimeters. No major contacts with Communist forces developed, but the Communists hit the base at Sam Thong with four rockets.

On the southeastern edge of the Bolovens Plateau, government forces are attempting to retake Site 38, the guerrilla base abandoned to the enemy on 9 May. Laotian irregular units had reached the perimeter of the base on 21 May, but were pausing until a break in the weather permitted supporting air strikes.

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Brazil: The government could be seriously embarrassed by the disclosure of two recent cases of torture.

Labor leaders are asking President Medici to give a full explanation of the death of a Sao Paulo trade unionist who they charge was killed by police while under interrogation. [REDACTED]

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A leader of the progovernment party has said that the administration is upset by the action and has called for a "rigorous inquiry." The press, which is usually prevented by censorship from dealing with such accusations, has also begun to cover the case.

The second case involves the president of the clandestine National Students Union. His followers claim he has been brutally tortured while in a naval prison, and the charges may be true. The Swiss Government, which claims he holds joint Swiss-Brazilian citizenship, has asked, but so far has not received, permission to check on his welfare.

The government recently issued a statement denying the use of torture or the existence of any political prisoners in Brazil, and implied that future allegations of torture would be investigated. If an investigation of the case of the unionist is made, the administration could be faced with a new wave of criticism. Moreover, military and security officials would resent an inquiry, because they believe politicians might use it to impair the military's image and hamper the counterterrorist campaign. [REDACTED]

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Iran - Persian Gulf: Oil drilling scheduled in disputed waters off Abu Musa may provoke Iranian action to protect its claim to the island.

The waters in question were recently claimed by two gulf sheikhdoms, both of which have now granted oil concessions to Western oil companies. One of the companies--Occidental--has announced its intention to proceed with drilling operations despite the conflicting claims. [REDACTED]

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Meanwhile, Tehran has warned that it will take action to stop any drilling operations that begin before Abu Musa's status is settled. It might use gunboats in such an effort as it did in a similar instance early in 1968. [REDACTED]

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Israel-Lebanon: Israeli military forces will probably retaliate strongly for yesterday's fedayeen attack on an Israeli schoolbus. The deaths of ten children and the driver are certain to produce strong domestic pressure for Tel Aviv to act. Yesterday's artillery shelling of Lebanese villages is not likely to allay this pressure. Although the bus incident occurred in the central sector of the border, the Israelis may select some other target area to emphasize their thesis that Beirut is responsible for the actions of all fedayeen based in Lebanon. The lack of significant results from Israel's search and destroy operation on 12 May in the Mount Hermon area is an added incentive for the Israelis to go back into Lebanon to "do the job right." [REDACTED]

* * * *

Egypt: The "diplomatic offensive" that Nasir set in motion following his May Day speech apparently contains little new of substance. The envoys that Cairo dispatched to the Arab countries reportedly carried no new proposals; they only conducted a general exchange of views on Middle Eastern problems. Nasir probably hoped he could generate a political effort that would somehow break the present impasse and that he could develop new pressures on the US not to provide further military aid to Israel. [REDACTED]

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Warsaw Pact: A two-day session in Sofia of the Warsaw Pact's Committee of Defense Ministers ended yesterday without fanfare. A skimpy communiqué noted only that "combat readiness" was discussed and that the meeting proceeded in an atmosphere of "complete mutual understanding and unity of views." This latter phraseology suggests that controversial issues were avoided. Warsaw Pact Commander Yakubovsky and Chief of Staff Shtemenko were present, as were the defense ministers of all the Pact countries except Romania, which, apparently because of the reported illness of Defense Minister Ionita, was represented by a first deputy. The Defense Committee is an advisory body tasked with making coordinated recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of Warsaw Pact forces. [REDACTED]

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Bolivia: Roberto Capriles, an apolitical technician, has been named minister of energy to replace the radical Marcelo Quiroga, who resigned earlier this week. Capriles' appointment should contribute to a lessening of the ideological rhetoric emanating from the government and add to the strength of the moderates in the cabinet. There are rumors that a well-known leftist will be named to head the state petroleum agency, the position that was the subject of the cabinet dispute that resulted in Quiroga's resignation. The appointment of a leftist to the post would be in keeping with President Ovando's policy of maintaining a balance of radicals and moderates in the government. Further delay in filling the position, however, could indicate military opposition to the appointment of a leftist. [REDACTED]

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